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Lamorinda Community Emergency Communications plan exercise, May 4

By Sora O'Doherty

Local residents may get a radio call offering them ice cream and cupcakes from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4 during an exercise by the Lamorinda emergency preparedness community to determine how well radio communication works in Lamorinda. MOFD will set up a communications net control near the Orinda Community Center, utilizing MOFDs equipment.

The objectives of the exercise are to introduce, test and revise a checklist for General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio emergency communications, to map radio coverage, and to map collected locational information. Additionally, it is hoped that the exercise will allow participants to practice perishable radio skills in the GRMS community, to practice setting up communications stations for an emergency event, to develop message-taking skills, and to determine where coverage exists and where efforts will need to be concentrated for future emergencies.

During the exercise, three repeater channels will be used by the net participants to identify themselves and provide locational information. Moraga GMRS, channel 121, Orinda GMRS, channel 122, and Lafayette GMRS, channel 123 will be linked and will be under one net control.

Participating groups will include the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (Duncan Seibert and Julie Sparks), MOFD Support 245 (Dennis Rein), and Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (Todd Gritzer), as well as other interested community members and groups.

Reach the reporter at: sora@lamorindaweekly.com

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